

THE WORD ON THE STREET

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN March & April, 2006 UPDATE

Mark Your Calendar For These Important Events & Deadlines



May 8 – Registration
Deadline; Statewide
Preservation Conference

May 10 – Regist. Deadline;
Basic Training at Pekin

May 15 – April Reports Due

May 16&17 – Basic Training &
Board Training; Pekin

May 18 – Regist. Deadline;
Basic Training at Rockford

May 18 – Regist. Deadline;
Nat'l Main Street Conference

May 22&23 – Basic Training &
Board Training; Rockford

May 24 – Main Street
Showcase, Thompson Center;
Chicago

May 26 – Regist. Deadline;
Application Workshop, Spfld

May 31 – APPLICATION
WORKSHOP; Springfield

June 3 – MAIN STREET DAY;
Legislated Recognition Day
for Main Street programs in IL

June 4-7 – National Main
Street Conference; New
Orleans

June 8-10 – Statewide
Preservation Conference;
Bloomington

June 15 – INTENTS TO
APPLY to Associate Program
in 2006 DUE

June 15 – LETTERS OF
AGREEMENT DUE

June 15 – May Reports Due

June 16 – Regist. Deadline;
Basic Training at Benton

June 26&27 – Basic Training
& Board Training; Benton

President's Retreat

This was a first for Illinois Main Street.



and greatest challenges. The exchange of information was great and created a network that will benefit each community. As one president said, "I've learned today that I am not the only one with these issues."

Wendy Bell, Illinois Main Street Program Coordinator, was the facilitator. The agenda included not only information on the President's role within the organization but also assessment of current issues and learning to deal with them. David Blanchette, Public Information Officer for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, gave tips during on *Communicating Effectively*. His presentation evoked a great discussion on effective ways to get the information out.



David Blanchette, IHPA



O'Fallon; Lynn Hollahan, Pittsfield; Mary Lynn Toon, Pontiac; Ginny Mickley, Prophetstown; Rebecca Kopf, Rockford; and William Cox, St. Charles.

Everyone thought the day was worthwhile, so this retreat will be the first of an annual event. Present were: David McKnight, Aledo; Jackie Pleasnick & Christine Lott, Belvidere; Joseph Loduca, Chicago-Midway; Lynn Wickham & Kathi Etten, Crystal Lake; Debbie Oxford, DuQuoin; Pamela Hume, Libertyville; Ralph Graham, Marion; Edie Wittenmyer, Marshall; Kathy Welker, Mascoutah; Chris Corrie, Monticello; Susan Witter,



A VIEW FROM THE TOP IN ALTON at the DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP

This Workshop focused on Fundraising for Main Street. An in-depth look at three major areas: 1. Tax Increment Financing, 2. Special Service Areas, and 3. Overall Fundraising Plans. The day and a half event also included loan information from Cory Jobe of the Treasurer's office, "The Best and Brightest" ideas from the directors in attendance and great steaks at Tony's Restaurant.

Tax Increment Financing

Mr. Stephen B. Friedman, AICP, CRE presented informative sessions on Special Service Areas and TIF Districts. He has authored several articles, been a featured speaker at many State and National Association conferences, and served on several community assistance panels. Mr. Friedman addressed each for eligibility, amount, use of proceeds, rate/terms, and program structure. He also explained the process a community must go through to become an SSA or TIF District.



Mr. Friedman explained TIF Districts (Tax Increment Financing) are a method of funding public investment in an area slated for redevelopment by capturing, for a time, all of the increase tax revenue that may result if the redevelopment stimulated private investment.

If you would like to talk with Steve Friedman he can be reached by telephoning 312/424-4250, via e-mail at: www.friedmanco.com, or snail mail: 221 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL

Special Service Area



David Richards

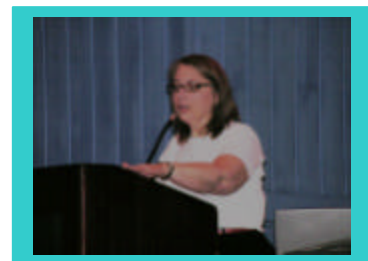
SSA's are largely used to support retail districts, especially a central business district. David Richards, Executive Director of St. Charles, and Roxanne Conley, Executive Director of Carbondale Main Street were our panel speakers. They explained how SSA's worked in their communities and how the Main Street organization manages the funds and implements the projects. Both David and Roxanne said these funds are the financial backbone of their organization.



Roxanne Conley

Funding With Sheri Stuart, National Trust Main Street Center

A good friend of Illinois Main Street returned to us for this breakout session. Sheri Stuart's presentation on Raising Funds for a Main Street Program highlighted an essential task for every revitalization effort, and noted that effective strategies for sustainable funding must be based on local circumstance. This session was designed for those who already have experience in basic fundraising activities. Ms. Stuart left many great ideas on linking your funding to strategic planning goals.



Portage Theater in Six Corners to Reopen

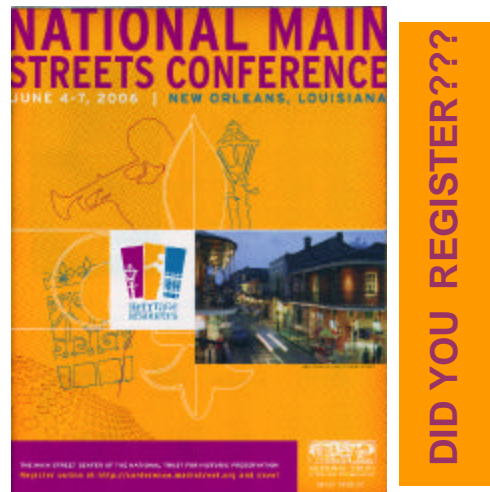


The Refurbished Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago, will reopen May 19, the theater's manager told members of the Six Corners Association at the group's April 6 meeting.

"Today we finished our inspection with the City of Chicago, and we got the green light," theater manager Dennis Wolkowicz told the group of about 70 people. Wolkowicz said that the theater plans to show silent, classic, foreign and independent films and to present live performances on the auditoriums newly built stage.

Wolkowicz said that the interior of the theater's auditorium resembles a classic opera house and that it was designed acoustically to accommodate the orchestra music that accompanied silent films. The theater originally opened in 1920.

"Do all you can with what you have, in the time you have, in the place you are."
— Nkosi Johnson



Making a Difference



Community Spirit Co-Winner, Tom Grojean of Jacksonville Main Street, accepting the award from Lt. Governor Pat Quinn.

Tom Grojean has been involved in Jacksonville Main Street since 2000 when the program started. Since that time, he has become the Economic Restructuring Committee Chairman and brought life to a dying committee. Within a year as Chairman, Mr. Grojean was leading the committee in completing a district inventory, a market analysis, a business recruitment program, and the first Upper Story Tour. Since that time, Tom has improved his own façade, had his first floor refurbished, and developed the first downtown loft apartment, attracting more attention to downtown than any other single Jacksonville Main Street activity. His license plate even boasts "4 DN TWN". Based on these achievements, it is easy to see why Mr. Grojean was named Jacksonville Main Street Volunteer of the Year in 2003. Mr. Grojean has earned state and national attention from awards and grant nominations. His attitude and example have encouraged increased membership in Jacksonville Main Street program by both individuals and businesses and will have a profound effect on the downtown area for many years to come.



Main Street Business Spotlight



THE BRICK, a coffee shop located in downtown Belvidere, is owned by Gary and Sherry Simon. The shop is named after the couple's favorite television show, "Northern Exposure". In the show, everyone in town met at a bar called "The Brick". Gary and Sherry love their community. They have been very active with the Boone County Arts Council for years and participate in the annual *snow sculpting*. The Brick features the Simon's own artwork and other local artists'. Tamara Brodnicki, Executive Director of Belvidere Main Street says "great food and coffee, it's Fabulous!!"



LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

25th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference Bloomington/Normal – June 8-10, 2006

For 25 years, the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference has brought together Illinois preservation professionals to renew friendships, learn useful techniques, and discuss how best to preserve the state's historic buildings and landscapes.

This year's conference, which also marks the 35th anniversary of Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, is in Bloomington, an Illinois Main Street community whose well-preserved courthouse square is a beautiful example of the prosperous Midwestern government center and market town.

The Conference includes more than a dozen different sessions and tours held in a wide variety of building types and inspiring interiors. Limited free registrations are available to Illinois Main Street program representatives. Check your e-mail from April 20th for registration instructions or log on to: http://www.landmarks.org/events_conference.htm for more information.



Cyber Resource of the Month

Market Knowledge

www.eightpoints.com

Practical, effective and inexpensive marketing and promotional ideas for retailers and other businesses.

Good News



Governor Blagojevich recently announced **expanded seven-day schedules** for many of Illinois' historic sites during the upcoming summer tourist season. The following sites are in Illinois Main Street Communities:

- Black Hawk, Rock Island
- Bishop Hill, Cambridge
- Carl Sandburg College, Galesburg
- Vandalia Statehouse, Vandalia

Carbondale Main Street has launched their Whistle Stop Online Auction in an effort to raise funds for the organization to promote downtown businesses. A complete list of items and bidding instructions can be found at:

www.carbondalemainstreet.com

Retail Sales on the Rebound!

Shoppers got back into the groove in March, sending sales of the nation's retailers up by 0.6 percent. This rebound reported by the Commerce Department, provided further evidence that the economy is coming back.

ILLINOIS MAIN STREET

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